

Message Text

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21

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-11 INR-10 LAB-06

NSAE-00 RSC-01 SIL-01 CU-04 PA-04 PRS-01 USIA-15

AID-20 ACDA-19 NIC-01 DRC-01 /115 W

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R 281855Z JUN 74

FM AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7453

INFO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

AMEMBASSY MANAGUA

AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR

USCINCSO

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEGUCIGALPA 2704

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, ELAB, HO

SUBJECT: TEACHERS' STRIKE

REF: TEGUCIGALPA 2667

1. AS REPORTED IN REFTEL THE FOUR TEACHERS' ASSOCIATIONS ARE CARRYING OUT AN INTENSIFYING STRIKE CAMPAIGN IN MOST DEPARTMENTS OF THE COUNTRY. THEIR REQUEST FOR A 50 PERCENT SALARY INCREASE HAS BEEN REJECTED BY THE GOH, WITH THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION AGAIN STATING ON JUNE 27 THAT THERE IS NO MONEY AVAILABLE FOR SALARY INCREASES. SEVERAL GROUPS WITHIN THE ASSOCIATIONS HAVE APPEALED DI-

RECT TO CHIEF OF STATE LOPEZ TO INTERVENE IN THE CONFLICT.

2. ON JUNE 26 THE ASSOCIATIONS FORMED A "NATIONAL TEACHERS' COORDINATING COMMITTEE" TO CONTROL NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE GOVERNMENT AND TO COORDINATE STRIKE ACTIVITY AT THE NATIONAL LDVEL. SIMILAR COORDINATING COMMITTEES HAVE BEEN ESTABLISHED
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AT THE DEPARTMENTAL LEVEL TO CONTROL THE ACTIVITIES IN THE

DEPARTMENT MUNICIPALITIES. POLOFFS WERE INFORMED BY THE ASSOCIATION LEADERS THAT COORDINATION IS AN ALL IMPORTANT STEP IN FORMING A UNITED TEACHERS' FRONT AGAINST GOVERNMENT PRESSURE.

3. IN A RELATED STORY THE MOSCOW LINE FEDERATION OF SECONDARY STUDENTS (FESE) OFFERED THEIR MORAL AND MATERIAL SUPPORT TO THE TEACHERS. THE COORDINATING COMMITTEE ACCEPTED THE OFFER AND INVITED FESE TO APPOINT TWO MEMBERS TO THE COMMITTEE.

4. COMMENT: THE PROGRESSIVE STRIKE APPEARS TO HAVE SPREAD THROUGHOUT 15 DEPARTMENTS OF THE COUNTRY WITH MOMENTUM BUILDING FOR A TOTAL PARALYZATION OF THE SCHOOL SYSTEM. THE COORDINATING COMMITTEE HAS REFRAINED FROM STRIKE ACTION IN TEGUCIGALPA AND THE SURROUNDING DEPARTMENT OF FRANCISCO MORAZAN IN THE HOPE OF AVOIDING A DIRECT CONFRONTATION IN THE CAPITAL AT THIS TIME. HOWEVER, THE PROBABILITY OF A STRIKE IN THE CAPITAL BY NEXT WEEK SEEMS VERY HIGH WITH CONSEQUENTLY GREATER PRESSURE ON THE GOH.
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